

The revision of fares has become inevitable in view of the steep increase in the prices of fuel, lubricants, spare parts, tyres, etc., and it is all the more so, in respect of K S R.T.C. The Corporation is expected to provide efficient, economical and co-ordinated transport service to the travelling public and it has to operate quite a good number of uneconomical routes to provide adequate transport facilities to the travelling public. For want of adequate finances and lack of sufficient capital contribution by the State and Central Governments, the Corporation has to raise loans from commercial banks, and the L.I.C, paying higher rates to interest. Inspite of all out efforts made to achieve economy and improve efficiency, mainly due to the steep rise in the cost of operations and also the several benefits which the Corporation is bound to extend to its more than 32,000 employees the projected loss for the year 1980-81 is of the order of Rs. 7 Crores. This was expected to be brought down by about Rs. 2 Crores improving the efficiency of operations and plugging leakages. But the recent increase in the price of oil and lubricants alone will now face the Corporation with the problem of meeting the additional cost of Rs. 7.27 Crores in operational expenditure.

Inspite of all these set backs, the K.S.R.T.C. committed to the principles for which it has been established, to provide an efficient, economical and co-ordinated service to the travelling public, has chalked out and is implementing programmes to provide better travel facilities to the public. During the year 1979-80 it had programmed to purchase 1397 new chassis, but owing to short falls in production, was able to secure only 463 chassis. Even during 1980-81, only 106 chassis have been received till now. The Corporation has a programme to purchase 1000 more chassis during 1980-81. The first aim of the Corporation in this behalf is to replace the existing vehicles which have long ago run their span of useful service and thereafter to take up augmentation of services in existing monopoly sectors so that with the rejuvenation of the existing overaged fleet, the innumerable complaints about frequent breakdowns and cancellation of services could be avoided.

(ii) *re :—Relaxation of energy in the State.*

MR. SPEAKER.—Now, the Hon. Minister for Finance will make a statement.

SRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY.—Sir, I beg to make a statement on behalf of the Chief Minister regarding relaxation of Energy cut in Karnataka.

The Hon'ble Members of the House are aware that we had imposed an additional 10% cut on H.T. consumers above 250 KVA and had introduced a 10% cut on H. T. consumers 250 KVA and below with effect from 19th April 1980. As a result of this, the total cuts on H T. consumers above 250 KVA were of the order of 60% to 76%. Cuts of this magnitude were necessary as the Linganamakki reservoir which is the main source of energy supply in our State had fallen to abnormally low levels during April 1980.

2. The rainfall in the catchment area of the Linganamakki Reservoir has been extremely good during the month of June 1980. The level in the Reservoir was 1773.70 feet on 27th June 1980 as against 1755.65 feet, 1772.10 feet and 1754.07 on the corresponding dates of 1977, 1978 and 1979 respectively. The indications are that we will have a better than average monsoon during the current year.

3. Government have taken into account the energy which would be available from Sharavathi on the basis of the present indications. The energy which would be available from Kali other K.E.B. stations, Maharashtra and Kerala has also been estimated. We have also estimated the requirements of energy for the different categories of consumers. Taking all these factors into account, it has been decided to relax the energy cuts in the State as follows:—

(i) The energy cuts on H.T. consumers above 250 KVA will be reduced to 30% (as against the cuts ranging from 60% to 76% which existed).

(ii) The 10% energy cut on H.T. consumers 250 KVA and below will be removed. This will mean that the small units which come under this category will not be subject to any energy cut at all.

(iii) These reduced levels of energy cut will come into force immediately and will be in force till a further review is done in about a month's time.

4. I would however like to remind the Hon'ble Members that these reductions in the levels of energy cut on H.T. consumers are conditional on a normal pattern of rainfall and on imports from other States being maintained at adequate levels. The position will be under constant review both by Government and the KEB and if any further revisions are called for such action as is necessary will be taken.

5. For the present, however, the substantial relaxations in the levels of energy cut will I am sure, provide a welcome relief to industries in the State.